

1 13. (Twice Amended) A device for holding a paper sheet in order to facilitate the viewing thereof, wherein the device comprises

a first holding element having two bearing zones, and

a second holding element having a protruding section,

C2 the first and second holding elements defining between them a space having a top and a base, said space opening upwards for accommodating the paper sheet to be inserted between the first and second holding elements, with the top of said space wider than the base of said space [as seen in a lateral projection], wherein said space progressively narrows, [as seen in the lateral projection], from the top to the base, with a greater gradient [to a greater extent] near the top relative to near the base of said space,

wherein the first and second holding elements are arranged such that

(a) [as seen in the lateral projection], the protruding section and the bearing zones overlap each other partially to enable a curvature to be conferred gradually upon the paper sheet to be inserted, wherein the protruding section and the bearing zones are tilted backwards with the protruding section tilted less than the bearing zones,

(b) two lines of force are allowed to be created, on the paper sheet to be inserted, towards the upper angles of the paper sheet in order to rigidify the paper sheet, and

(c) the device allows the paper sheet to be inserted to obtain a backward tilt ranging from 45° to 85°, and the first holding element comprises a recess between the bearing zones.

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16. (Twice Amended) A device for holding a paper sheet in order to facilitate the viewing thereof, wherein the device comprises

a first holding element having two bearing zones, and

a second holding element having a protruding section,

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the first and second holding elements defining between them a space having a top and a base, said space opening upwards for accommodating the paper sheet to be inserted between the first and second holding elements, with the top of said space wider than the base of said space [as seen in a lateral projection], wherein said space progressively narrows, [as seen in the lateral projection], from the top to the base, with a greater gradient [to a greater extent] near the top relative to near the base of said space,

wherein the first and second holding elements are arranged such that

(a) [as seen in the lateral projection], the protruding section and the bearing zones overlap each other partially to enable a curvature to be conferred gradually upon the paper sheet to be inserted, wherein the protruding section and the bearing zones are tilted backwards with the protruding section tilted less than the bearing zones,

(b) two lines of force are allowed to be created, on the paper sheet to be inserted, towards the upper angles of the paper sheet in order to rigidify the paper sheet, and

(c) the device allows the paper sheet to be inserted to obtain a backward tilt ranging from 45° to 85°; and the first holding element is mounted on an articulation interconnected to an actuating body fitted with a compressible element in position against the second holding element, wherein actuation of the actuating body enables

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the first holding element to be spread apart from the second holding element in order to facilitate the placement of the paper sheet to be inserted.

~~19~~ (Amended) A device for holding a paper sheet in order to facilitate the viewing thereof, wherein the device comprises

a first holding element having two bearing zones, and

a second holding element having a protruding section,

the first and second holding elements defining between them a space having a top and a base, said space opening upwards for accommodating the paper sheet to be inserted between the first and second holding elements, with the top of said space wider than the base of said space [as seen in a lateral projection], wherein said space progressively narrows, [as seen in the lateral projection], from the top to the base, with a greater gradient [to a greater extent] near the top relative to near the base of said space,

wherein the first and second holding elements are arranged such that

(a) [as seen in the lateral projection], the protruding section and the bearing zones overlap each other partially to enable a curvature to be conferred gradually upon the paper sheet to be inserted, wherein the protruding section and the bearing zones are tilted backwards with the protruding section tilted less than the bearing zones,

(b) two lines of force are allowed to be created, on the paper sheet to be inserted, towards the upper angles of the paper sheet in order to rigidify the paper sheet, and

(c) the device allows the paper sheet to be inserted to obtain a backward tilt ranging from 45° to 85°; and

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each of the bearing zones of the first holding element independently comprises a plane surface, an obtuse angle being defined between said plane surfaces at the base of the space having an apex directed towards the back of the device, said obtuse angle being from 90° to 160°.

Please add new claim 21 as follows:

21. (New) The device for holding a paper sheet in order to facilitate the viewing thereof, wherein the device comprises:

a first holding element having two bearing zones,

a second holding element having a protruding section on one surface and two bearing zones on an opposite surface,

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a third holding element having a protruding section on one surface and two bearing zones on an opposite surface,

a fourth holding element having a protruding zone,

wherein the protruding section of the second holding element is disposed toward the bearing zones of the first holding element and the bearing zones of the second holding element is disposed toward the protruding section of the third holding element, and the bearing zones of the third holding element is disposed toward the protruding section of the fourth holding element,

wherein the first and second holding elements defining between them a space having a top and a base, the space open upwards for accommodating at least a first paper sheet to be inserted between the first and second holding elements, with a top of said space wider than the base of said space, wherein said space progressively

narrows, from the top to the base, with a greater gradient near the top relative to near the base of said space,

wherein the second and third holding elements defining between them a space having a top and a base, the space open upwards for accommodating at least a second paper sheet to be inserted between the second and third holding elements, with a top of said space wider than the base of said space, wherein said space progressively narrows, from the top to the base, with a greater gradient near the top relative to near the base of said space,

wherein the third and fourth holding elements defining between them a space having a top and a base, the space open upwards for accommodating a third paper sheet to be inserted between the third and fourth holding elements, with a top of said space wider than the base of said space, wherein said space progressively narrows, from the top to the base, with a greater gradient near the top relative to near the base of said space,

and wherein the first, second, third and fourth holding elements are arranged such that

(a) the protruding sections of the second, third and fourth holding elements overlap partially the bearing zones of the first, second and third holding elements respectively to enable a curvature to be conferred gradually upon the paper sheets to be inserted, wherein the protruding sections and the bearing zones are tilted backward with the protruding sections tilted less than the bearing zones,

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(b) two lines of force are allowed to be created on the paper sheets to be inserted, toward the upper angles of the paper sheet in order to rigidify the paper sheets, and

(c) the device allows the paper sheets to be inserted to obtain a backward tilt ranging from 45° to 85° ; and each of the bearing zones of the first, second and third holding elements independently comprises a plane surface, and obtuse angle being defined between said plane surfaces at the base of the space having an apex directed towards the back of the device, said obtuse angle being from 90° to 160° .

REMARKS

Claims 13-20 are pending. By this Amendment, the specification has been amended, claim 17 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer and claims 13, 16 and 19 have been amended. Claim 21 has been added. No new matter is presented. Claims 13-16, and 18-21 are submitted for consideration.

The specification was amended to properly disclose the features of the invention that are shown in Fig. 5. The amendments support claim 16. No new matter is presented.

Claims 16 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, for being non-enabling. The rejection of claim 16 concerned the specification not reasonably providing enablement for a second holding element having a protruding section and a first holding element mounted on an articulation interconnected to an actuating body fitted with a compressible element. Applicants have amended the specification to clarify that the embodiment shown in Fig. 5 to which claim 16 refers otherwise, has the same elements as the embodiment of Figs. 1-4.